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REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-13, 16, 17 and 21 were pending in the previously ended prosecution of the present application. Claims 4, 8, 12 and 16 were withdrawn. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled in this Request for Continued Examination. Claims 1, 5, 9-11, 13, 17 and 21 stood rejected at the end of previous prosecution. The present amendments were not entered after final, the Examiner finding that they would raise new issues that would require further consideration or search. As such, they are presented here in this Request for Continued Examination alongside arguments in support of their allowance.

Claims Previously Rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5 and 9 were previously rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takata (2004/0183655) in view of Meinke (6,264,257). The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the aforementioned amendments and the following arguments. The Applicant notes that neither of the cited references utilizes a first gear attached to the door handle mechanism, a smaller gear/cam combination in rotational communication therewith, wherein the cam has a small switch-trigger distance and a large unlatching distance, wherein large unlatching distance and small-trigger distance are configured such that a controller can authorize entry in response to the trigger prior to the door handle mechanism unlatching the door as the door handle is pulled open by the occupant. This is not discussed, addressed, or contemplated in any of the cited references and reconsideration is formally requested.

Claims 10-11, 13, 17 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takata (2004/0183655) in view of Meinke (6,264,257) in further view of Geil (6,181,024). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and seeks reconsideration in light of the aforementioned amendments and the following arguments. Again, the Applicant respectfully calls the Examiner's attention to the fact the none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, contemplated configuring a cam/switch/handle assembly such that the cam is configured to activate the switch with sufficient time for the controller to verify authorization prior to the cam

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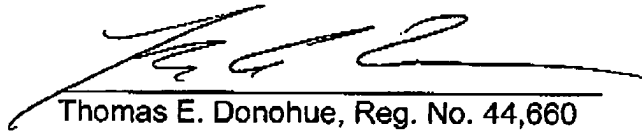
reaching the door unlatch position. The unique mechanical claimed system of the present invention does not simply utilize a cam for leverage or a damper for feel. The present invention actively claims configuring such components such that the controller has adequate time to verify the entrant from the time the door handle begins movement to the time the door latch is unlatched and thereby allow the door to be unlocked. The Applicant asserts that this is not taught nor suggested by any of the references either alone or in combination and reconsideration is formally requested.

Conclusion

Having overcome all of the objections and rejections set forth in prior prosecution, Applicants submit that claims 1, 5, 9-11, 13, 17 and 21 are in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance indicating the same is therefore earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 433-7221 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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